

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1-14. Cancelled.

15. (Currently Amended) A method for augmenting a feed hopper for manufacturing explosive materials, comprising:

providing a feed device for extending processing runs of manufacturing explosive materials ~~having~~ comprising a feed hopper for retaining processing materials, the feed hopper comprising an access at a top of the feed hopper for inputting processing materials therein and an extender being attached to the top of the feed hopper, the extender comprising at least two baffles being fixed within ~~the~~ an interior portion of the extender,

wherein the extender is attached to the top of the feed hopper effective for conveying processing materials, from the extender, through the access and into the feed hopper; and,

conveying the processing materials used for producing the explosive materials from the extender into the feed hopper,

wherein said at least two baffles are arranged along separate baffle levels where each baffle of said at least two baffles is inter-spaced at equal vertical distances so that said each baffle extends from an inner side of said extender and is oriented at an angle toward a lower baffle of said at least two baffles.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the step of conveying the ~~retained~~ processing materials comprises an agitator.

17. (Currently Amended) The ~~feed device~~ method of claim 15, wherein the baffles retain from about 7 pounds of the processing materials or less.

18. (Currently Amended) The ~~feed device~~ method of claim 17, wherein each level of baffles retains about ~~the~~ a same amount of the processing materials as retained by the feed hopper.

19-22 (Canceled)